

## A Landmark Year

In March of 1986 the Mahidol University Council and Ministry of University Affairs formally endorsed the creation of a new academic enterprise, designated at that time as the International Student Degree Program (ISDP), providing an international-style education in English leading to a Bachelor Degree in Science or the Arts. Ten years later the name was changed to Mahidol University International College, giving the program the full status and weight of a university faculty.

In observing this landmark 20th anniversary, MUIC has organized a series of celebratory events which began in March, 2006, and will continue through the end of this calendar year.



# 20<sup>th</sup> MUIC

1986 - 2006 *Anniversary*

## MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE



On the morning of March 24 nine monks, an auspicious number in Buddhism, arrived at MUIC to participate in a merit making ceremony commemorating the college's twenty years. Honored guests included Professor Pornchai Matangkasombut, President of Mahidol University, as well as deans from the various faculties.

The familiar ritual consisted of the lighting of ceremonial candles and the burning of incense, after which the Buddhist monks intoned the traditional prayers. ➤ page 3





After the March 24 celebratory luncheon: seated (left to right) Dr. Pakorn Bovonsombat, Ajarn Anchalee Pongpun, Dr. Charles Freeland, Interim Dean Chariya Brockelman, Dr. Peter Smith, Interim Associate Dean for Administration Sumalee Visetratana, senior staff members Somluck Lunsuchep and Udomrat Tivasub and Pre-College Director Sanhapong Khovong, with members of the support staff.



## Educational Tour to Ayudhdhaya

As part of its 20th anniversary celebrations, MUIC sponsored an educational tour to Ayudhdhaya for members of the support staff on April 7-9, 2006.

Approximately 80 staff members, representing every conceivable department, from general administration and academic services to admissions, student affairs and international relations, took advantage of this opportunity.

The weekend experience entailed a combination of the old



and new. While the group enjoyed the modern conveniences of the newly-constructed Waraburi Hotel, most of their time was devoted to stepping into the past by taking a guided tour to various wats, visiting the historical museum and exploring the ancient ruins.

This educational tour, just one in a series of annual outings, was meant to provide a deeper understanding of Thai history and an enrichment of staff members' personal and professional lives.

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## ...A Landmark Year

After the ceremony Interim Dean Chariya Brockelman invited the guests to a special luncheon at the Salaya Pavilion Hotel at which she presented Dr. Peter Smith and Dr. Charles Freeland with certificates of merit, citing their 20-year contribution to MUIC. She also awarded certificates of merit to 25 members of the administrative staff for their long-standing service to the college.

The merit-making ceremony and luncheon were not, however, the only celebration.

It may be a matter of serendipity but MUIC's 20th anniversary has taken on

added significance inasmuch as it coincides with the 60th anniversary of His Majesty the King's accession to the throne.

Consequently, on March 19 representative members from the administration, faculty, support staff and student body gathered on the ground floor of Building 1. Interim Dean Chariya Brockelman led the group in expressing allegiance to the monarchy. Avovals to do good

things were written and attached to a specially-constructed tree laden with gold leaves, its branches representing the protection and service of the monarchy.

The participants then proceeded en masse to the Princess Garden, a newly-renovated area behind the old Science Building and adjacent



Participants planting a tree in the newly-renovated Princess Garden.

to the MUIC's Princess Cafe. The college invested 1.5 million Baht (about US\$38,500) in transforming a once neglected and overgrown campus site into an environmentally friendly space for picnics, minor sports events and other recreational pursuits.

Once the group arrived at the Princess Garden, a group photo was taken, after which trees were planted in honor of His Majesty's anniversary. The afternoon activities concluded with snacks and refreshments.

These two celebrations were only the beginning in a series of events commemorating MUIC's 20th anniversary, all of which will be covered in subsequent issues of *kaleidoscope*.



## Upcoming Events

**MAY 15:** A panel discussion, MUIC: Past Present and Future, with Interim Dean Chariya Brockelman, former ISDP Director Serene Piboonniyom and academician Chaiwat Viboonsawas in the MUIC auditorium

**JUNE 5-16:** An exhibition of books written and translated by His Majesty the King to commemorate the 60th anniversary of his accession to the throne.

**JUNE 15-16:** A seminar for Mahidol University audio-visual aid professionals.

**JULY 29:** A gala dinner at the Dusit Thani Hotel to celebrate MUIC's 20th anniversary, with honored guests, MUIC faculty and staff, student representatives, alumni and parents.

**AUGUST 9:** MUIC's fourth annual Open House marking this anniversary year.

**SEPTEMBER 13:** A Meeting of the Mahidol University Deans at the onset of a new academic year.

**OCTOBER 19:** The annual Wai Kru Ceremony and a special exhibition of Thai arts and crafts.

**NOVEMBER 10:** Mahidol University President's Cup Competition, a soccer match between faculty/staff and MUIC/Pre-College students, followed by a post-game party at the Princess Cafe.

**DECEMBER 15:** A seminar on MUIC's current developments in research conducted by Dr. Yaowalark Sukthana, Assistant Dean for Planning, Research and Development.

MUIC's annual New Year's Party, bidding farewell to 2006 and welcoming 2007.

> humanities

## 2006 TESOL Conference

MUIC was well represented at the Thailand TESOL Conference 2006 in Chiang Mai on January 20-22, 2006.

Dr. Charles Windish, English Program Director who also served as the Editor for the conference proceedings, delivered a paper, "Language as Professional Development for International College Staff." Other presentations included "I Have a Good Boss: He Leaves Me Alone." by Jonathan Green, "Curriculum Development: A Content Driven Approach" by Christina Schoonmaker, "Live Writing" by Nicholas Ferriman and Mark Rodell, "Improving Persuasive Speaking" by Douglas Rhein and "Motivating Writers: The Power of Choice" by Galon Melendy.

The presentations touched on key activities and research which are ongoing in the English Studies Program: curriculum, program administration, technology, professional development and methodologies. All of the aforementioned presentations were well attended and well-received.

## French Minor Projects

The Foreign Languages Program sponsored its first French Film Festival from January 23 to 26, 2006, in the MUIC auditorium. Five subtitled French films were featured with an accent on youth: *Peut-etre* (Maybe), *Le pari* (The Bet), *Karnaval*, *Jeanne et le garçon formidable*

(*Jeanne and the Wonderful Boy*) and *Mauvais sang* (Bad Blood).

The festival was of particular interest for students minoring in French; however, students from MUIC and other Mahidol University faculties also participated and thoroughly enjoyed this cultural event. Another such film festival will be offered in January, 2007.

Ms. Michele Waag was invited to MUIC on January 30 and 31, 2006, in order to conduct a workshop on French songs for students enrolled in the French minor program. Activities included body and vocal warm-up exercises, after which students learned a number of traditional and contemporary French songs.



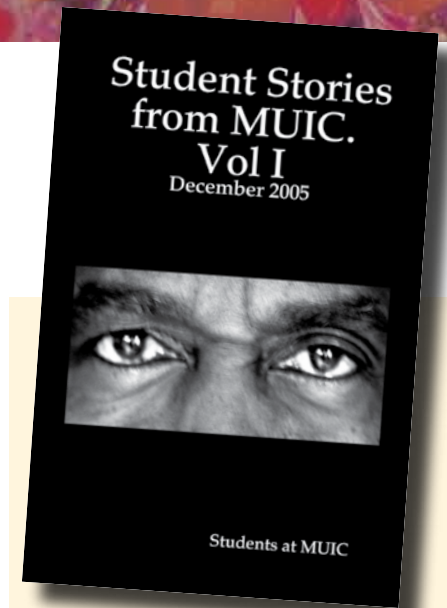
Chanson workshop for French Minors.

## Classes Abroad

MUIC students will have the opportunity to attend language classes in Nice on the French Riviera from August 1 to 28 and in China in August, 2006. For more detailed information, please contact the Foreign Languages Program in Room 1307.

## > research and planning: Tea & Talk Sessions

During the past trimester the Planning and Research Department, under the Supervision of Assistant Dean Yaowalark Sukthana, has sponsored two "Tea & Talk" sessions in the Seminar Room. The first session introduced the department and MUIC's Research Database Project as well



## Creative Writing Project

Ajarn Euan Harvey's Creative Writing class from trimester 1, 2005, compiled an anthology of short stories written by MUIC students and published online through LULU, the largest web-based print-on-demand company. Ajarn Euan explained that "the reason for this publication was twofold. One reason was to allow the students to see their work in tangible form. The second reason was to have a durable resource for future students in the Creative Writing course." The English Studies Program hopes to publish other anthologies for future creative writing classes. Copies of the most recent anthology, *Student Stories from MUIC, Volume 1*, are available in the MUIC library.

as procedures on seeking grants for research projects. At the second session Mr. Ravit Teutvongse delivered a presentation entitled, "Effectiveness and Efficiency at Work: An Art?"

These sessions will continue throughout the year, culminating in a special seminar in December.



&gt; travel industry management

## International Tourism Conference



An Austrian delegate with Ajarns Pisut Yuwanond and Dale Rorex.

**The Travel Industry Management (TIM) Division, in collaboration with the Center for Tourism and Service Economics, Innsbruck University School of Management, conducted its Second International Tourism Conference on March 2 and 3 in the MUIC auditorium.**

The Conference, "Destination Rejuvenation Strategies: The Po-

tential Future for New Tourism Products, Services or Experiences," was coordinated by TIM Vice-Chairman, Assistant Professor Sompong Amnuay-Ngerntra, and sponsored by Heilbronn University, Asia-Uninet and the Thailand Research Fund.

Interim Dean Chariya Brockelman welcomed the 80 participants, after which Dr. Vallop Suwande, Deputy Governor of Bangkok, delivered the keynote address. Speakers from Austria, Thailand, Indone-

sia, the Philippines and Vietnam, all experts in their respective fields, engaged the participants in a series of panel and large group discussions and workshop sessions. Issues ranged from health tourism, crisis management and destination rejuvenation to research and sustainable development.

Participants responded positively to this exchange of ideas and committed themselves to continuing research on these critical issues.



Dr. Chariya Brockelman and Mr. Pradech Phayakvichien, Advisor to the Tourism Authority of Thailand.

&gt; science

## Basic Ecology Summer Course

This summer the four-credit Basic Ecology summer course will be offered twice as two separate sections. The course is open to all MUIC students as either a Natural Science requirement or a free elective.

The course starts with work in the mangrove forests of Chumporn before moving on to Koh Tao (Turtle Island). On the island participants will study the effects of tourism on the environment, especially the coral reefs. They will also explore what happens to island culture. The course ends with students

completing a mini project in which they can further pursue topics that were of particular interest during the course. Previous mini projects included such topics as recycling on the island, tourism satisfaction, coral reef surveys and the effects of beach litter.

This course aims to teach the basics of terrestrial and marine ecology; it is the only course of its kind at MUIC and provides a perfect opportunity for students to learn about the importance of coral reefs, mangrove forests and the marine environment.

Given the nature of this course, the fee structure is different from other MUIC courses and has yet to be finalized. Exact dates have not yet been determined but Section 1 will begin near the end of July and Section 2 in the middle of August.

If students want further information or have any questions regarding the course, they can contact Dr. Wayne Phillips by email (icwnphil@mahidol.ac.th), telephone (extension 1412) or by visiting his office (Room 1408/1). Posters advertising the course will appear around the college in the near future.

> science

# Preparing for Medical Careers

**An increasing number of students entering the Biomedical Program at MUIC have declared specific interests in post-graduate studies, with a focus on both medical schools and medically-orientated graduate schools for medical research.**

Recent worldwide indicator studies have predicted that the next 20 years will be dominated by science and science companies. Significant increases are expected in the job market in the medical science and medical engineering industries. Moreover, Asia is seen as an important emerging market for many scientific sectors, and science graduates who can speak both English and Thai will have a distinct advantage in the coming years.

In response to student concerns, the Medical Microbiology course at MUIC is designed to address the fundamental skills expected of recent biomedical graduates. The course focuses on basic medical knowledge, while also covering current medical research topics. High impact disease states, current medication options, bacte-

riology, virology, human defense, and clinical laboratory diagnosis are taught from the current literature. Though abbreviated, this course is closely modeled after the second-year medical student class of the same name. However, attention is also given to research topics since medical advances come directly from research.

In addition to classroom learning, the course exposes students to functional clinical laboratories. Students have toured the clinical lab facilities of three different local hospitals. This term, the class toured the Samitivej, Siriraj, and Tropical Medicine laboratories, where students were shown modern testing machinery, discussed typical patient loads, examined patient samples and parasitological specimens, discussed disease trends in Thailand, and were free to ask lab personnel about the day-to-day operations of the lab. Exposure to clinical laboratory personnel is something that most medical studies overlook, even though proper sample identification is key to timely patient diagnosis.

A class like this will never be static since medical science is always evolving. Current



MUIC biomedical students at a hospital laboratory.

scientific literature and lab procedures are always moving towards greater accuracy and detection. Emerging diseases push science in directions where it never went before, and older disease organisms challenge our initial understanding of their mechanisms. Keeping this

### BEST JOBS 2005

1. Personal Finance Advisor
2. Medical Scientist
3. Computer Software Eng.
4. Chiropractor
5. Environmental Engineer
6. Biochemist/Biophysicist
7. Sales Manager
8. Epidemiologist

From: biz.yahoo.com

in mind, it is our goal to provide a level of biomedical education that properly prepares the students to confront the medical challenges of the future.

Michael Hurt



Dr. Hurt at Siriraj Hospital.



# Upcoming Summer Internships

**It's that time of year again. As part of its Study Abroad Program, the Office of International Relations has been hosting a number of student groups, particularly from the United States, who have been arriving in Thailand on educational and cultural excursions.**

These visitations are a prelude to the summer months of June, July and August, during which inbound international students come to MUIC for their internships in order to gain practical experience in their disciplines by studying and working in a different cultural setting.

Anticipating the impending arrival of new interns, Ajarn Brian Phillips, Chief of International Network Development, collaborated once again with the Knowledge Exchange Institute (KEI), a New York-based organization that coordinates study abroad placements, in an effort to recruit suitable candidates.

Ajarn Brian, with the cooperation of Ms. Wanpimon Sanapadpakorn, Head of International Relations, and Ms. Supida Wangrattanakorn, Head of Admissions, organized a site visit on March 15-19 for KEI Director Eduard Mandell and representatives from eight American colleges and universities: Auburn University (Alabama), Morehouse College and Clark Atlanta University (Georgia), Lincoln University (Pennsylvania), the University of North Texas, Oregon State University, the University of California, Santa Barbara and Columbia University (New York).

There was an expressed interest in the fields of science, especially medicine and ecology, engineer-

ing, business and psychology, combined with student experiences in cultural exchange. Columbia University expressed an additional interest in setting up a research experience for science teachers from New York.

The group was welcomed by Interim Dean Chariya Brockelman and given a briefing on MUIC's curriculum and international program, after which they toured the Salaya Campus facilities and MUIC's off-campus international housing accommodations. The visitors also had an opportunity to observe classes such as Ethics and Technology (Eugene Jones), Elementary Thai (Arpaporn Iemubol), Small Business Management (John Barnes) and Modern History of East Asia (Matthew Copeland) among others.

During the four-day visitation several sites for possible internships were also explored, including Mahidol University's Neuro-Behavioral Biological Center, the National

land's 30-Baht Health Plan and the Prince Mahidol Award Foundation.

As for the cultural dimension of any internship experience in Thailand, members of the group toured Buddhamonthon Park and the or-

*"On behalf of our whole KEI group, thank you for a wonderful experience. You are truly the most gracious of hosts. We will cherish memories of this experience and value the connections we made with your university and with Thailand."*

*John Ed Allen, Assistant Dean  
University of North Texas*

child factory in Nakorn Pathom, visited the Royal Grand Palace and Temple of the Emerald Buddha, jostled with the crowds at the night bazaar, took in a performance at the Puppet Theatre and traveled to Ayudhdhaya, the former capital of Thailand.

The four-day visit provided some insight into what international in-



KEI visitors at the Grand Palace.

Institute of Child and Family Development and Siriraj Hospital, where the group was introduced to Thai-

bound students might experience during the course of their summer internships.

# In the Footsteps of the Buddha

MUIC students have distinguished themselves in a variety of ways, some through academic achievement, others in terms of leadership skills and still others by their active participation and commitment to community service. One student, however, is recognizable by virtue of his vocation, the saffron robes an unmistakable sign of his status. His is a calling to which only a few respond, a life that few of us would choose.

Phra Chainarong Natadhammo is a monk at Wat Nakprok Temple in the Thonburi District of Bangkok. Originally from Nakhon Ratchasima Province, he has spent much of his life abroad, having been to the United States, New Zealand and India. He is currently majoring in Social Science, with a concentration in International Relations, and has declared a minor in Computer Science. He is also an active member of the MUIC Debate Club.

The following interview, conducted by Ms. Dithaya Punyaratabandhu, a fourth-year Biological Science major, offers insight into the challenges for a Buddhist monk living in a modern and globalizing world

## WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO BECOME A MONK?

I grew up in a temple school and was a novice on and off for many years. My master took me under his wing and when he went abroad to oversee Thai temples in foreign countries, I went with him. So it was only natural that I would become a monk. I was ordained as a monk when I was 20 years old and have been a monk for 5 years.

## A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE WONDERED IF A MONK CAN STUDY AT A COLLEGE LIKE MUIC. IS IT A MISCONCEPTION THAT MONKS SHOULD NOT STUDY IN UNIVERSITIES?

It's a common misconception because it used to be against the law for monks to study in public universities and people still think that this is the case. There are universities for monks and people expect us to study there. Eight years ago, however, they changed the law and monks are now allowed to study in public institutes.



## SO WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO COME TO MUIC?

Despite the change in the law, many institutes, including Chulalongkorn and Thammasart Universities, still do not permit monks to study there, at least at the undergraduate level. Mahidol University has a religious faculty which is quite well known so they are much more open to the idea of monks enrolling as students. More importantly, the college provides a variety of fields in which to study. The monks' universities generally focus on religious teachings, Buddhism, Pali and dhamma. Here I have the opportunity to study subjects like computers and social science.

## COMPUTERS? DO MONKS NEED COMPUTERS?

Absolutely. One of the ideas behind being a Buddhist monk is that you should always keep up with society. In the olden days, the temple used to be the center of society. The temples were also schools and monks were teachers. In that way people naturally learned about religion along with other important subjects. However, now that schools have moved outside of temples and society has advanced, temples have become less and less important in people's lives. Children nowadays hardly understand their own religion because they grow up watching TV and playing games. We cannot expect them to leave this technology and come to the temple. Instead monks must adapt and try to use the same technology to reach the people. At Wat Nakprok monks have used computers to design religious brochures, edit videotapes for TV shows about religion and even create interesting power-point presentations. It is not wrong for monks to learn about things like this. In fact, if we don't learn, we will not be able to keep up with society and fewer





and fewer people will learn about or appreciate Buddhism.

#### AND WHAT ABOUT STUDYING SOCIAL SCIENCE?

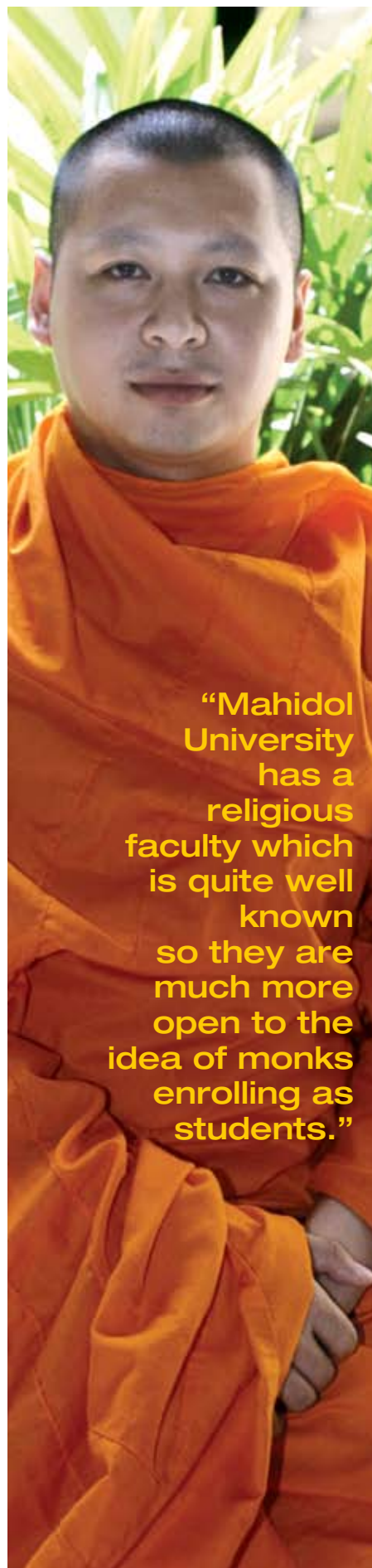
Well, I'm interested in learning about society and how it functions. After I graduate I would like to continue my studies at the Faculty of Religion. Aside from learning more about religions, I'm interested in studying ethics. As you know, there are two types of monks: those who practice religion in the temple and those who study a lot to become scholars. I would like to be the second type, if it's possible. I believe that people should continue to study and learn all their lives.

#### HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT STUDYING IN A PUBLIC INSTITUTION? IS IT A PROBLEM STUDYING WITH SO MANY FEMALE STUDENTS? AND DO PEOPLE PAY YOU THE PROPER RESPECT WHEN YOU PASS BY?

I'm not affected by the presence of female students. In fact, I feel as if I'm more trouble to them because they always have to try to stay out of my way. As for people not paying the proper respect, I don't think about it too much. It's quite normal in the city for people to simply pass by a monk. City life is very different from country life. In the provinces, if I walk past anyone, they will immediately put down their things and sit on the ground and wai me. I understand that isn't possible in the city. It's a totally different lifestyle. And I think a lot of people don't know what to do so they just avoid doing anything altogether.

#### I GUESS THAT APPLIES TO MUIC STUDENTS, TOO. CAN YOU GIVE SOME ADVICE ABOUT WHAT STUDENTS CAN DO TO PAY RESPECT?

It's alright to just wai. I know a lot of students don't know the proper



“Mahidol University has a religious faculty which is quite well known so they are much more open to the idea of monks enrolling as students.”

Thai terms to use with a monk so I generally avoid the problem by speaking in English.

#### YOU'RE FLUENT IN ENGLISH BECAUSE OF THE TIME YOU SPENT ABROAD. DO YOU THINK THAT YOUR EXPERIENCE ABROAD HAS CHANGED THE WAY YOU THINK?

Definitely. I learned a lot during my years abroad and it has really affected the way I think. I feel that I can look at everything much more critically and I question things more. It sounds very un-Thai and I guess I almost look at the world as a foreigner would; Thais have generally been taught to always listen to their elders and not ask questions. In fact, though, the Buddha always said never to accept anything without question. So thinking critically is actually a Buddhist value and I think that having been abroad has taught me this. This is also why I enjoy debating. It really teaches one to think about some things in many different ways.

#### WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT PEOPLE'S PERCEPTION OF BUDDHISM?

A lot of students have come up and asked me questions or even consulted me about their personal problems, so I can see that monks still have a role as guides. I try to answer questions or give advice by bringing in Buddhist teachings because I think the best thing to do is try to apply Buddhism to everyday life. Buddhism is not so much a religion as a way of thinking, a way of life. Even many Westerners have begun to understand and accept Buddhist ideas and have incorporated some form of Buddhism into their lives. I know many foreigners who have traveled all the way to Thailand to learn about Buddhism directly from the monks. So I think that Buddhism has made a lot of progress.

# Celebrating Eight Years

While MUIC has been celebrating this landmark 20th year, it also observed the 8th anniversary of its Pre-College (PC) Program which has contributed significantly to the growth and development of our college.

## Rationale

During the 1980s and 90s there was a proliferation of English language schools throughout the greater Bangkok metropolitan area, a clear recognition of English as the emerging international language. More often than not, however, these programs were disparate and uncoordinated with a quality of instruction that was, at best, uneven.

## Beginnings

In order to provide its prospective candidates with the necessary skills and consolidate its recruiting efforts, MUIC, under the leadership of Interim Dean Chariya Brockelman, established the Pre-College Program in April of 1998. Its purpose was - and still is - to provide a foundation for those students who need to improve their English skills to the required level for entrance to the college. Ajarn Achalee Pongpun, then Deputy Dean for Academic Affairs, Faculty of Science, and Deputy Dean for Student Affairs, Faculty

of Graduate Studies, was enlisted to coordinate and develop this new academic endeavor.

Since the construction of MUIC's new building had just been complet-



The PC full-time faculty. Insert: Ajarn Sanhapong Khovong.



ed at that time, the PC Program was able to utilize the facilities in Building 1. Initially the demand for space and personnel was not that great, requiring only three of four part-time instructors and two administrative staff members.

Thirty-eight students enrolled for the first term's offerings, which consisted of one intermediate level (PC 1) and one advanced level (PC 2),

both of which addressed the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. In addition, a course in remedial mathematics was offered for those students requiring stronger skills.

The results were both immediate and encouraging, as reflected by the number of PC students who passed the MUIC entrance examination during that first year. Enrollment steadily increased with each term and each consecutive year so that by 2000 the program was serving over 130 students each term.



Ms. Satja Sopha

## A Stabilizing Force

While many of us would like to think otherwise, no one is really indispensable. Nevertheless, some organizations are fortunate to have key people, important because of their long-standing tenure, reliability and familiarity with operational procedures.

One such example is **MS. SATJA SOPHA** who joined the PC Program in 1998, shortly after its inception. During these past eight years she has served the program in

several capacities and is now the Head of PC Administration.

At a special luncheon ceremony on March 24, 2006, Ms. Satja, along with other support staff members, received a certificate of merit in recognition of her many contributions to the PC Program.

This much must be admitted: Ms. Satja was not only instrumental but also indispensable in providing the necessary information and perspective for this report.



## Program Expansion

In response to its growing popularity, the PC Program expanded its curriculum by offering four levels: Pre-Intermediate (PC 1), Intermediate, (PC 2), Upper Intermediate (PC 3) and Advanced (PC 4), with mathematics being offered at the second and third levels. Another feature, the teaching of TOEFL, was introduced in order to more effectively prepare students for the MUIC entrance examination. This basic curriculum has



PC staff at the tree-planting ceremony.

been successfully operational up to the present.

In 2001 the PC Program launched a pilot project, the Bridging Program, designed specifically for international students whose skills may have been below the pre-intermediate level. Over the past five years students from China, Japan, India, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Burma, Korea, Kazakhstan, the Maldives and Somalia have participated in this program. Two years later, in 2003, participation in the Bridging Program was extended to Thai students as well.

## New Accommodations

By 2002, with an enrollment of approximately 240 students, the facilities at MUIC were no longer adequate. Consequently, arrangements were made to relocate the PC Program to the fourth floor of the

Institute of Language and Culture for Rural Development, directly across from the old Science Building. These accommodations continue to provide ample of office space, at least ten classrooms, sound laboratories and a resource center that enables students to consult reference materials, use computers and watch English programs on cable television. The location of this site also offers PC students easy access to MUIC's Princess Cafe.

## Consolidating Resources

The emphasis at Pre-College is decidedly academic. Students are assigned to their appropriate levels based on the results of the entrance examination and are required to attend classes 24 hours a week for a total of 240 hours over each ten-week term. Their progress is evaluated by oral presentations, reading and writing assignments, quizzes as well as mid-term and final



2006 PC students with Ajarn Cindy M. Stewart ...

examinations. Needless to say, these requirements leave little time for non-academic activities.

During the summer months the PC Program faces additional demands. Apart from its regular curriculum and Bridging Program, PC administrators two satellite projects, the PC Summer Course, designed specifically for high school students who wish

to improve their basic English skills, and the Intensive English Program, which focuses exclusively on the teaching and practice of TOEFL.

All of these offerings require a substantial teaching staff, unlike before when the PC Program primarily enlisted part-time instructors. Currently there are 12 full-time teachers, most of whom are from the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom, along with a number of visiting lecturers. In the event of an unexpected upsurge in enrollment, lecturers from MUIC's English Studies Program offer their services.

Nine full-time members of the of-

... and a PC class of 1999

fice staff provide a variety of support services for instructors and students alike, under the supervision of Ms. Satja Sopha who serves as Head of the PC Administration.

Ajarn Sanhapong Khovong, the Director of Pre-College for the past three years, is largely responsible for consolidating the program's resources and creating a more effective curriculum and teaching staff. While affirming PC's mission to provide the necessary English skills for entrance to MUIC, Ajarn Sanhapong maintains that "our program also addresses those life skills which are so necessary in meeting the challenges of a globalizing world." ➤

### Anniversary Celebration

Without the Pre-College Program many deserving students would never have had the opportunity to gain an MUIC education. Over the past eight years approximately 1,950 students have completed the program's requirements, 95 percent of whom have eventually entered MUIC.

The Pre-College's contributions to the development of MUIC have been considerable. And so it seemed fitting that, during this landmark 20th anniversary year, the college should recognize and celebrate PC's eight years of service.

The 8th Anniversary Celebration of the Pre-College

Program was held on April 22 on the first floor of the Institute of Language and Culture for Rural Development building where PC Director Sanhapong Khovong welcomed invited guests.



A group of Buddhist monks performed the traditional merit-making ceremony, after which there was a formal unveiling of the new Pre-College sign. Dr. Chariya Brockelman, Interim Dean of MUIC, who is responsible for the program's inception and subsequent growth, then addressed the gathering, recalling the highlights of PC's brief history. After these proceedings, everyone enjoyed a celebratory lunch.



Opening of the 8th Anniversary Celebrations.

## staff profile...

**One can neither speak of nor write about MUIC's Pre-College Program without acknowledging the contributions of two long-standing instructors, Ajarns Valadom Viravong and Leigh Pearsons, both of whom joined the program in 2000.**

**AJARN VALADOM** was born in Thailand but at the age of five relocated with his family to Canada where he lived for the next 20 years. He became a registered nurse, acquired an Associate Degree in Psychology and served as a health care worker and patient educator for the terminally ill. There came a time, however, when he decided to rediscover his roots and acquaint himself with members of his extended family. He was certified as an instructor of English as a Second Language and returned to Thailand in 2000.



VALADOM

**AJARN LEIGH**, on the other hand, who is a citizen of the United Kingdom, arrived in Thailand for altogether different reasons. With credentials in Art and Graphic Design, and certified as an instructor of English as a Second Language, he decided to broaden his

horizons and explore other cultures by traveling to the Southeast Asian region. He arrived in Bangkok in 1999, where he taught at the English Computer Center (ECC) for one year before joining the PC Program.

During their six-year tenure, both Ajarns Valadom and Leigh have had extensive experience in the PC Program. Apart from having taught the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing on all four levels, they have been involved in curricular development, created special materials and participated in formulating the program's assessment procedures.

Ajarns Valadom and Leigh are currently coordinators of the PC Program's writing and reading tracts, respectively, and, given their background and expertise in health care and art, also serve as lecturers in MUIC's Humanities Program, teaching Health Education and Drawing. In spite of these challenges, both



LEIGH

gentleman are also engaged in pursuing post-graduate degrees in education.

They both readily acknowledge that there have been incremental yet dramatic changes in the development of the PC Program. Much of that success can no doubt be attributed to their own considerable contributions.





**Over the past several decades technological advancement, particularly in medicine, have generated unforeseen consequences, one of which is the every-increasing population of older people throughout the world.**

This "greying society" has emerged as a global challenge. Each month worldwide another 1.2 million people turn 60 and by mid-century it is anticipated that there will be 2 billion older people, four-fifths of whom will be living in developing countries.

In response to this fast-approaching phenomenon, sometimes referred to as the Age Quake, the International Council for Caring Communities has launched its "connect the generations" pro-

gram that addresses the need for an inclusive and balanced multi-generational society.

One such effort was the 2005 Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Student Design Competition which challenged students to apply their creative skills in developing solutions towards integrating older people into the fabric of the community and include them in all social, cultural and productive activities.

Thirteen countries participated in this international competition, including Bangladesh, Denmark, Germany, Indonesia, Kenya, Korea, Malta, New Zealand, Peru, Thailand, Uganda and the United States of America.

Three MUIC students, Mr. Somtob Devahastin, a Computer Science major, Mr. Jae Heon Choi and Mr. Terrence Li, both of whom are Biomedical Science majors, submitted a project to the ICT Student Design Competition.

Their project, under the leadership of Mr. Somtob, entailed the creation of a simple web board, "Palios Sofia" (translated as Ancient Wisdom), especially designed for user-friendly interface, even for the computer illiterate as many elderly are. The web board features functions such as writing life stories and histories, recollecting special events and traditional knowledge, reading stories written by others and engaging in conver-

sation with others. A more elaborate web site was created to attract younger users. Since the web board and web site have a common database, both young and old can share their stories and viewpoints, thereby bridging the generational gap.

No first place was awarded; the MUIC project did receive second place and the three students, accompanied by the project advisor, Ajarn Siriporn Jinanarong, were invited to attend the Exhibition and



Awards Ceremony at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City on February 10, 2006.

Their four-day visit was a virtual whirlwind of activities and sightseeing, including visits to the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building, ground zero at the former World Trade Towers and Central Park, an agenda that required some effort since they were caught up in the worst blizzard to hit New York City in recent memory.

One day, however, was devoted entirely to the international conference at the United Nations where the MUIC team gave a power point presentation in which they explained the functions and purpose of the web board and web site, all of which generated considerable interest on the part of the audience. Mr. Somtob, Mr. Jae Heon and Mr. Terrence received special certificates of achievement and a US\$ 5,000 cash award. Congratulations to all!



New York City's record breaking snowstorm.

# Taekwondo Championship

The Taekwondo Club, in collaboration with the Office of Student Affairs, hosted MUIC's 1st Taekwondo Open championship 2006 from March 4 to 6 in the Mahidol University gymnasium.

Professor Sriprasit Boonvisut, Mahidol University's Vice President for Student Development, presided over the opening ceremonies, after which the 563 participants, representing 50 clubs, charged into battle.

They came from all regions of Thailand, men, women and children, from primary school students to young adults. This national competition included a variety of categories according to age, from 7 years old and upwards and highlighted both individual and team achievements.

Throughout the three-day competition medals were awarded for individual performances and climaxed



with special awards for overall team achievement. Two special trophies, on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen, were presented to the male team, the Tae-eesilp Taekwondo Club, and the female team, the Bua Thong Club, in recognition of their accomplishments.

Given the success of this initial competition, it is expected that the MUIC Taekwondo Club will host another such event in 2007.

## Lessons in Acrylics

Thirty-one members of the **ART CLUB** traveled to Rayong in mid-March to practice and hopefully master the technique of acrylic painting. They were accompanied by art instructors Suksan Chuaynum, Vanchai Phol-in and Montri Samchimchom, along with Student Affairs Advisor Anchalee Pongpun and three staff members.



On their way to Rayong the group stopped at the Tum Nan Pa (Classic Forest) Restaurant for lunch, after which they took advantage of the spectacular surroundings. Each member chose his or her favorite spot and, under the supervision of the three art instructors, spent the afternoon on the first lesson, painting landscapes in acrylics.

When the group arrived at Rayong Beach they not only enjoyed that evening's sunset but also welcomed the next morning's sunrise. Most of the second day was devoted to painting seascapes along the coast.

Although this workshop - and its intermittent fun - lasted for only two days, everyone agreed that the lessons learned were well worth the effort.

## Love Is Color Blind

Although mid-term exams were looming, MUIC student took time to celebrate **VALENTINE'S DAY** at a special gathering on the ground floor of Building 1.

The event, "Love Is Color Blind," was sponsored by the MUIC Student Association and included a variety of international foods catered by MUIC clubs, games designed for both Thai and international students and live music by the MUIC Music Club and Mahidol University's College of Music.



Some of the MUIC clubs took the opportunity to engage in fundraising activities by selling roses, chocolates, ice cream and original drawings.



## The Spirit of Caring

Members of the **VOLUNTEER CLUB**, along with a number of other MUIC students, visited the Foundation for Children, which is near the college on Buddhamonthon Road 4, on February 8.

During the day-long visitation, the 40 students engaged the children in conversation, played games and read stories. They provided a special lunch and distributed toys, books and clothing which they procured from previous fund-raising activities.



Two weeks later a smaller contingent of volunteers visited the Foundation for Disabled Children In Nonthaburi where they engaged in the same kind of activities.

## A Picture Perfect Field Trip

The MUIC **PHOTOGRAPHY AND MULTIMEDIA CLUB** embarked on its annual photo field trip in March, this time to Hua Hin. The 37 members were accompanied by Advisor Korrachai Lekpetch and two staff members from the Office of Student Affairs.

The purpose of this outing was to enable students to test their pho-



tographic skills; however, they also addressed environmental issues, especially the importance of ecosystems.

Members of the club dealt with the challenge of sunrise and sunset alignment, had classes in landscape and portraits and practiced nighttime photography. Over the weekend the group also traveled to Pranburi for a change of scenery, visiting the Samroi-yod Mountains and the Phra-Ya Na-korn caves.

## Band Competition

On March 1 the MUIC **MUSIC CLUB** conducted its annual Band Competition in the MUIC auditorium. The winner of the competition was Minerva, a five-member band represented by Sakulchat Chatrakul Na Ayudhdhaya, Srunyu Stittri, Pachararit Wismol, Ticomporn Tangkiatsilp and Ankul Chunhakij.

## Soccer Championship

Members of the MUIC **SPORTS CLUB** participated in the Inter Cup 2006, an annual soccer competition among international university programs in the greater metropolitan Bangkok area. Six teams participated in the event,



which was held at Thammasat University's Thaprajan Campus on March 15-28. The MUIC male soccer team won first place while the college's female team secured second.





# Future and Present Alumni

During the second trimester MUIC sponsored two separate events, one targeting prospective alumni and the other welcoming present alumni at a second reunion.

## Job Fair

The third annual MUIC Job Fair was held on February 2-3, 2006, on the ground floor of Building 1. Although this exhibition, the largest to date, was primarily for third and fourth-year students, all MUIC and Mahidol University students were invited to attend.

The first day was devoted to employment opportunities; booths were available for 31 national and multi-national companies, banking



and financial firms, representatives from the hotel industry and other service organizations.

The second day took on a decidedly academic focus; 17 national and foreign universities, particularly from the United Kingdom, and other educational institutes participated in the Job Fair.

an MUIC alumna, practiced their managerial skills by organizing MUIC's second Alumni Reunion.

Over 300 alumni, faculty and staff arrived at the Bangkok Marriot Resort and Spa on April 1, 2006, for this year's "Back to the Origins" reunion. The gathering was primarily a social one, enabling alumni to keep in touch with their peers and the latest developments at MUIC. However, the occasion was also an opportunity for the college to gather additional information on its alumni in order to update its database.

The combined efforts of the Meeting Incentives class and the involvement of the Cheer and Dance, Music and Volunteers Clubs' members guaranteed a successful evening.



## Alumni Reunion

Students in the TIM course, "Meeting Incentives: Convention and Exhibition Management," engaged in another major project this past trimester. The class, under the supervision of Ajarn Naphawan Chantradaon,

### MUIC NEWSLETTER

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